Ministry of Agriculture

Plan for 2017-18

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Agriculture's Operational Plan for 2017-18.

Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

The 2017-18 budget for the Ministry of Agriculture is $388.6 million, including $71.2 million for strategic initiatives, $26.8 for agricultural research and $4.2 million to support agricultural events and organizations. The budget also contains $264.1 million to fund business risk management programs such as Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest.

The budget supports Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector in continuing to supply consumers and customers locally and globally with high quality, sustainably produced products.

The Ministry will report on progress toward the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2017-18 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry fosters a commercially viable self-sufficient and sustainable agriculture and food sector. The Ministry encourages farmers, ranchers and communities to develop higher value-added production and processing and promotes sustainable economic development in rural Saskatchewan through better risk management.

Mission Statement

The Ministry enables a prosperous, market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, programs and services.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: enhanced long-term growth, competitiveness and sustainability of the industry

Ministry Goal

Targeted investment in infrastructure, science and innovation

Strategy

- Work with stakeholders to identify opportunities and set priorities.
- Transition to an outcome-based regulatory framework.
- Partner with organizations to achieve Growth Plan targets.
- Create an attractive business climate.

Key Actions

- In support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* goals and objectives, implement sector driven strategies (Crops, Livestock, Irrigation, Agriculture Awareness and Value-Added Strategies) and programs that increase investment in Saskatchewan, and contribute to the benefits from the growing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.
- Collaborate with industry to improve coordination of research investments and technology transfer, including project funding, research capacity and funding for on-farm demonstration of new knowledge and technologies.
- Build the process to transfer government-owned irrigation assets to seven irrigation districts and support the continued development of a sustainable, high-value irrigated crop sector.
- Build industry capacity by expanding training and promoting good governance in the Agri-Food Council and non-Council agencies.
- Work with the sector on activity to support industry growth and development while meeting government's climate change goals.
- Guide the transition of the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program from its current pilot phase to being an effective tool for Saskatchewan's livestock producers.
- Work with the industry, other provinces and the federal government to ensure that business risk management programs negotiated and implemented under the next Federal-Provincial Agriculture Policy Framework meet the needs of a robust and growing agricultural industry while reflecting fiscal realities.

- Provide programs and funding to promote animal welfare, animal disease surveillance and prevention and respond to emergency events, including the prioritization of registration on the Premises Identification database.
- Work with industry, local governments and other ministries to ensure agricultural needs are considered in the community planning process.
- Assist the beef industry through continued support of the transition of former federal community pasture lands.
- Maximize the agricultural and public benefits of Crown land through modernized sales and leasing programs.
- Support the patrons of the Saskatchewan Pastures Program during the transition to non-publically managed operations.
- Support the establishment of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) and integrate the Western Beef Development Centre into LFCE.
- Collaborate and partner with industry under the next Federal-Provincial Agriculture Policy Framework to drive sustainable growth, innovation and competitiveness of the sector.
- Negotiate a new Strategic Research Program with the University of Saskatchewan.
- Enhance management capabilities of Saskatchewan farmers through information services and extension activities.

Performance Measures

Annual crop production

A key goal of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* is to increase crop production by 10 million tonnes by 2020. In 2016, Saskatchewan farmers harvested the second-largest crop in the province's history at 35.6 million tonnes. While there are many variables that go into producing a successful crop, including weather, the Ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best crop management, production and protection practices to ensure that profitable crop production continues to increase in Saskatchewan.

Annual value-added revenue

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports are driven by the sale of raw commodities; however, the timing is right to also expand our agriculture value-added (processing) sector and take advantage of an increasing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.

To meet the target of close to a 50 per cent increase in total revenue, or $6.0 billion by 2020, increases in crop processing will need to occur. So far, total revenue from value-added agriculture has almost doubled from $2.3 billion in 2004 to an estimated $4.3 billion in 2016. In order to reach the target of $6.0 billion in revenue, the Ministry is implementing an Agriculture Value-Added Strategy to capture economic value beyond primary production through increased investment, infrastructure development and innovative technologies. The value-added sector has significant growth opportunities and will be an important contributor to the success of *Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth*.

Annual livestock sector revenue

The *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* calls for significant expansion of the livestock herd. The Ministry has set a target of increasing annual farm livestock cash receipts above $2.0 billion by 2020. This target has already been exceeded, as higher market prices led to the industry achieving $2.65 billion in farm cash receipts in 2015, and an estimated $2.28 billion in 2016. Significant global population growth is anticipated over the next 30 years which is expected to drive the continued growth of the sector. Saskatchewan has 21 million acres of pasture and forage land well-suited for livestock production, providing an excellent opportunity for Saskatchewan to supply this growing demand.

The Ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best livestock management, production and biosecurity practices to achieve increased livestock production in Saskatchewan.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: enhanced trade advocacy

Ministry Goal

Support industry to enhance trade in priority markets

Strategy

- Develop and implement trade strategies for key agriculture markets.
- Collaborate with partners, including industry, to access target markets.
- Influence federal trade policy to reflect Saskatchewan priorities.

Key Actions

- Collaborate with the industry on incoming and outgoing missions, undertake projects and provide programs and services that increase industry's capacity to market Saskatchewan products globally.
- Work with industry and the federal government to pursue Saskatchewan's export interests on market access issues and in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

Performance Measures

Value of agri-food exports

Under the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*, the province's agri-food exports target is $15.0 billion by 2020. This target was exceeded in 2015, as agri-food exports reached a record high of $15.3 billion. In 2016, agri-food exports are down to $14.0 billion compared to 2015, however this is above the five year average of $13.2 billion. With the forecast growth in world populations and income levels, global demand for food and agricultural-related goods is anticipated to increase. The Ministry will continue to support the sector to take advantage of these emerging opportunities by expanding market presence, influencing federal trade negotiations and collaborating with industry.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: enhanced client service

Ministry Goal

Efficiently develop and deliver effective programs and services

Strategy

- Implement modern service delivery tools and techniques.
- Work with clients and stakeholders to develop, evaluate and enhance programs, services and legislation.
- Implement service standards throughout the Ministry.

Key Actions

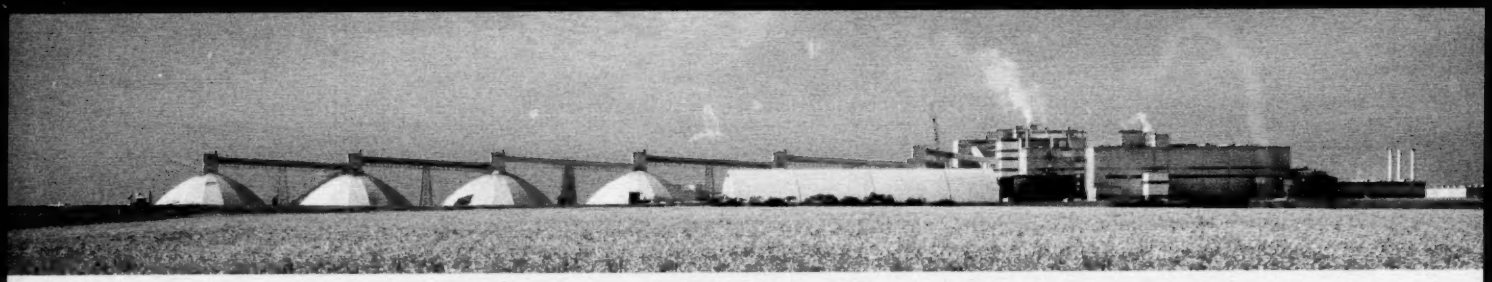
- Develop and monitor leading service standards throughout the Ministry.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, implement a new business improvement planning process.
- Collaborate with public and private partners to deliver pest diagnostics and surveillance services.
- Implement the Ministry's new digital strategy by increasing online and mobile service delivery options for clients.

Performance Measures

Percentage of clients satisfied with programs and services

The goal of the Ministry is for 75 per cent of all producers surveyed to be satisfied with the Ministry of Agriculture by 2017. In the 2015 Client Services Survey, 52 per cent of producers surveyed were satisfied with the Ministry based on the question "How would you rate your overall satisfaction with Saskatchewan Agriculture service delivery?"

In order to improve satisfaction and meet the target, the Ministry will focus on utilizing technology to improve the way clients access the broad range of programs and services. Advancements in the utilization of social media, smart phones, tablets and online transacting will transform the way government interacts with and provides services to clients. As technology changes, the Ministry will continue to update its service and information delivery systems to ensure clients' needs are being met, and programs and services are supportive of their agricultural operations.



Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: improved public trust and understanding of agriculture

Ministry Goal

Partner to promote the benefits of agriculture

Strategy

- Promote agricultural learning in the Saskatchewan educational system.
- Implement a targeted agriculture awareness strategy.
- Promote careers in the agriculture and food sector to youth.
- Ensure social licence is a priority nationally.

Key Actions

- Work with industry to provide science-based technical and regulatory information to ensure farmers and ranchers are "doing the right thing" for sustainable production and maintaining social licence.
- Promote career opportunities in the agriculture industry to Saskatchewan youth.
- Develop strategic partnerships with industry, educational institutions and governments that will secure the agriculture sector's social licence to operate.

Performance Measures

Public understanding of agriculture as measured by the percentage of Saskatchewan residents with a positive perception of agriculture

The goal of the Ministry is to ensure that 85 per cent of Saskatchewan residents have a positive perception of agriculture. Agriculture has and will continue to play a critical role in Saskatchewan's growth and identity. Today, agriculture is a progressive, modern and market-driven Saskatchewan industry, yet the average citizen is removed from direct food production. Therefore, it is often sensational media stories that influence the public's opinion of the agriculture industry, and as a result, the public is liable to be exposed to information that may be inaccurate or biased.

The Ministry will continue to provide factual information about the importance, relevance and sustainability of the province's agricultural industry in order to earn social licence. Efforts directed at youth will provide education on the science of agriculture, as well as the multitude of diverse career and entrepreneurial opportunities the sector offers.

Highlights

The following are key announcements being made in the 2017-18 Budget:

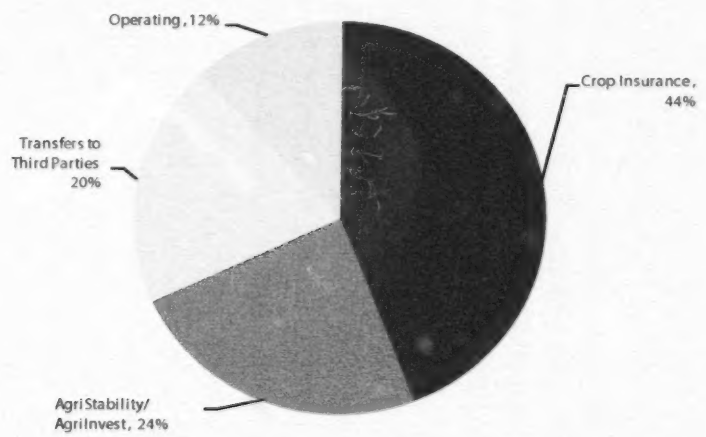
- Provide $264.1 million to fully fund the Province's 40 per cent share of business risk management programs. This includes funding for crop insurance, as well as fully funding AgriStability and AgriInvest.
- Provide $26.8 million to support agriculture research and development, including $2.0 million in funding for the Global Institute for Food Security.
- $4.2 million for third-party grants to a variety of agricultural organizations to develop and support the industry.
- $71.2 million in Growing Forward 2 funding for the areas of:
  - Innovation and research;
  - Environmental farm planning;
  - Farm business management;
  - Rural water infrastructure;
  - Food safety and plant/animal health;
  - Value-added business development;
  - Agriculture awareness; and
  - Trade and market development.

Financial Summary

2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	11,256
Industry Assistance	7,376
Land Management	10,935
Policy, Trade and Value Added	5,221
Research and Technology	26,806
Regional Services	38,250
Program Design and Delivery	23,035
Business Risk Management	264,103
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**386,982**
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	1,621
Total Expense	**388,603**
FTE Staff Complement	**392.4**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry of Agriculture, Budget 2017-18



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/agriculture